

Pollocksville, Jones County, and local residents requested that NCDOT evaluate new location alternatives through Segment 5 to reduce this potential impact. In response to this request, Segment 5 was combined with Segment 4 and several preliminary alternatives on new location were developed within the section previously designated as Segment 5. Segment 4 was revised to extend from south of Lee's Chapel Road (SR 1114) to the New Bern Bypass near the Jones / Craven County Line and the Segment 5 designation was eliminated. The segments used to describe alternatives in the SDEIS are as follows:

- **Segment 2** – 4.8 miles from Deppe Loop Road (SR 1330) / Springhill Road (SR 1439), south of Belgrade / Maysville, through the towns of Belgrade and Maysville to north of the Maysville town limits.
- **Segment 3** – 3.4 miles from the end of Segment 2, north of Maysville, to just south of Lee's Chapel Road (SR 1114) south of Pollocksville.
- **Segment 4** – 7.9 miles from the end of Segment 3, south of Lee's Chapel Road (SR 1114), through Pollocksville to the Jones / Craven County line.

These segments still correspond to the alternatives presented in this SFEIS and were also used in impact discussions during Section 404 / NEPA Interagency Merger Process Team meetings.

Discussions regarding project alternatives were part of the Merger Process. The Section 404 / NEPA Interagency Merger Process is a process to streamline the project development and permitting processes, agreed to by the USACE, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources (NCDENR), FHWA, and NCDOT and supported by other stakeholder agencies and local units of government. To this effect, the Merger Process provides a forum for appropriate agency representatives to discuss and reach consensus on ways to facilitate meeting the regulatory requirements for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act during the NEPA / State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) decision-making phase of transportation projects. The process required that the Merger Team reach concurrence at primary phases of project development: 1) defining the purpose of and need for that action and defining the study area; 2) defining the alternatives to be studied in detail in the environmental document; 2a) identifying the bridge locations and approximate lengths; 3) selection of the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA); 4a) implementing measures to avoid and minimize impacts to the natural and human environments; 4b) review of the development of the drainage design; and 4c) review of the completed permit drawings. Once consensus is achieved on each concurrence point, the project proceeds to the next stage.

Since the development of the SDEIS, multiple Merger Process Team meetings for this project were held on the following concurrence points (CP):